## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2022

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis State of Florida The Capitol 400 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We write today to request that you immediately divest Florida from Russian-owned assets and companies. As the Ukrainian people fight for their freedom against Russia's heinous, unprovoked invasion, you must prevent our state from providing resources to Russian dictator Vladimir Putin and the Russian armed forces.

Since the invasion began, the United States has unified the free world behind crippling economic penalties on Russia, including sanctions on the entities and people complicit in the suffering of innocent Ukrainian men, women, and children. These actions have been devastatingly effective and have shown Vladimir Putin our resolve – we do not cower to bullies; we confront them head on.

As of January 2022, the Florida Retirement System contained approximately \$300 million worth of investments in Russian-owned and Russian headquartered assets and companies. Some of these companies are the same ones supplying the Russian armed forces and lining the pockets of Putin and his allies, including Rosneft Oil Company, Sberbank, Norilsk Nickel, Lukoil, and Magnit.

Floridians, our constituents, are patriotic Americans with deep convictions. Floridians stand up for what is right. It is time for our state's government to do what is right and sever its ties to Russia.

Putin is providing a lifeline of support to the nefarious activities of Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro and Cuba's Miguel Díaz-Canel. By refusing to divest from Russian-owned assets and companies, Florida is propping up these dictators.

Now is the time for Florida to take decisive action and respond to Russia's unprovoked attacks on the people of Ukraine. Through your role as head of the State Board of Administration, we request that you immediately divest from all Russian-owned assets and all companies headquartered in Russia. Given the absence of rule of law in Russia and the close ties between Russian companies, the Russian armed forces, and Russia's elite, any such investments simply provide resources towards achieving Vladimir Putin's heinous agenda – murdering innocent Ukrainians, reinventing the Communist Soviet Union, degrading democracy, and making the American people and Floridians less safe.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Stephanie Murphy MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Kathy Castor
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Al Lawson MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ted Deutch MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Val Butler Demings MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dal B. Demings

Debis Wassum Short

Debbie Wasserman Schultz MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Darren Soto

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Friderica S. Wilson

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Lois Frankel MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick MEMBER OF CONGRESS